

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060115

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINR, CY, US

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR VIENNA/CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NICOSIA 736

1. DEPARTMENT VERY MUCH APPRECIATES SERIES OF USEFUL CON-

VERSATIONS AND FULL REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 16. WE
ALSO WELCOME HELPFUL REAFFIRMATION GIVEN AMBASSADOR
MACOMBER BY ELEKDAG (ANKARA 1920) CONCERNING TURKISH
CYPRIOT INTENSIONS.

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2. WE CONCLUDE FROM BOTH THESE MESSAGES THAT TWO SIDES
CLEARLY UNDERSTAND AND WISH TO HONOR COMMITMENTS MADE TO
CLIFFORD. ADDRESSEES SHOULD IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GREEK
AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND UN IN NICOSIA, AS WELL AS WITH
GOT AUTHORITIES IN ANKARA, EXPRESS GRATIFICATION FOR THIS
AND OUR FULL EXPECTATION THAT BOTH SIDES WILL CONTINUE
TO LIVE UP TO THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEE FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES, AND, IF HE DEEMS IT USEFUL, DE CUELLAR TO FOLLOW UP ON MARCH 16 CONVERSATION REPORTED PARA 7 REFTEL, AND OUTLINE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON GENERAL SUBJECTS OF PREPARATIONS FOR VIENNA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

--DEPARTMENT HAS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH SIDE TO DATE IS LIVING UP TO BOTH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN CLIFFORD AND TO SOME EXTENT IS PREPARED EVEN TO GO BEYOND COMMITMENTS MADE IN ANKARA. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT OF COURSE KNOW WHAT SUBSTANCE OF TURKISH PROPOSAL WILL BE.

--IN OUR VIEW, ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE UNDERSTANDINGS IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY, EVEN IF NOT SO INTENDED, COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DAMAGING PROSPECTS FOR THE VIENNA TALKS.

--EXAMINATION OF GREEK-CYPRIT "STRATEGY PAPER" CANNOT HELP BUT GIVE US NAGGING SUSPICION THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE ATTEMPTING UNILATERALLY TO TWIST AND MISREPRESENT UNDERTAKING GIVEN CLIFFORD. THUS, WE FIND "ORAL PRESENTATION" OF GREEK CYPRIOT STRATEGY AT BEST AMBIGUOUS AND POTENTIALLY HARMFUL.

--EXISTENCE, OF ANY DOCUMENT, NO MATTER HOW LABELED, WILL NOT BE HELPFUL SINCE IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE WIDER DISSEMINATION THAN CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY INTENDS. PUTTING PAPER CONTAINING SUCH ELEMENTS FORWARD TENDS TO MAKE MORE SPECIFIC AND POSE ADVANCE CONDITIONS ON WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD BE A FLEXIBLE AND IMAGINATIVE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

4. AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL REACTION TO CHRISTOPHIDES MARCH 16 ON GREEK CYPRIOT ORAL PRESENTATION STRATEGY PAPER WAS EXACTLY RIGHT. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT YOU SHOULD ALSO REITERATE THESE POINTS TO CHRISTOPHIDES (AND DE CUELLAR, IF YOU DEEM IT ADVISABLE) ALONG FOLLOWING LINES IN NAME ALSO OF DEPARTMENT:

--PRESENTATION OF GREEK CYPRIOT CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS, WHILE WELCOME, DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN CLIFFORD THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE AN EFFORT TO MATCH PROPOSALS FROM EACH SIDE FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARISON. INSTEAD, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATION ON BASIS GREEK TERRITORIAL AND TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS.

--WE AGREE THAT OTHER FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ARE CONNECTED WITH TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, BUT WE FEEL AT

LEAST INITIALLY TALKS SHOULD FOCUS ON OPENING CONCRETE PROPOSALS RATHER THAN ON PRINCIPLES.

--WE DO NOT FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARY THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS (OR GREEK CYPRIOTS) PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON EACH AND EVERY ASPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS SUFFICIENT TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH ON THE BASIS OF THE

OTHER PARTY'S PROPOSAL.

--WE DO NOT AGREE THAT "EMPHASIS" SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TERRITORIAL ISSUE AT VIENNA, BUT RATHER THAT TWO MAIN ISSUES SHOULD BE TREATED ON ESSENTIALLY PARALLEL AND SIMULTANEOUS BASIS.

--THE CONDITION THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL NOT ENTER INTO PROLONGED DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECT UNLESS
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TURKISH SIDE PRESENTS EQUALLY CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES IS IN OUR VIEW A SIGNIFICANT DEVIATION FROM THE MAKARIOS/CLIFFORD UNDERSTANDING AND IS IN KEEPING NEITHER WITH THE LETTER NOR THE SPIRIT OF THEIR DISCUSSION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOOD-FAITH COMMENTS ON GREEK CYPRIOT PROPOSAL BY TURKISH CYPRIOTS IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED, AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS SO INTERPRET THEIR "CONDITION".

--WE BELIEVE BOTH SIDES SHOULD HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO A PROLONGED NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND SHOULD REFRAIN FROM THREATS OF SUSPENDING TALKS.
CHRISTOPHER

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